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load. It is constructed almost entirely of heavy gaspipe, and is extremely rigid. The polar axis is hollow, and is fitted with an eyepiece, as an aid in adjusting. The automatic arrangements for securing certainty in exposing have been elaborated upon to such an extent that the inventor now feels certain that nothing can go wrong, at least with this part of the expedition.

Professor BURCKHALTER'S parting injunction to his friends was not to wish him a good time or a pleasant journey, but that he might have two minutes of clear sky at the right time. Those of us who have heard him describe the disappointing day in Japan in 1896, and who realize what the success of this expedition means, will be certain to remember him on the eventful day. If friendly good wishes can insure success, he will have it.

ALLEN H. BABCOCK.

ELEMENTS OF COMET *b*, 1897 (PERRINE).

From Mt. Hamilton observations, made on October 16th, 18th, and 20th, we have computed the following elements of the orbit of this comet:—

$T = 1897$ Dec. 9.89171 G. M. T.

$\omega = 67^\circ\ 6'\ 55''.2$
$\Omega = 32\ \ 8\ 37\ .4$
$i = 69\ 45\ 43\ .2$
} Mean equinox and ecliptic of 1897.0

$\log q = 0.129500.$

Residuals for the middle place (O—C):—

$\Delta\lambda \cos\beta = +2''.8,\ \Delta\beta = +2''.4.$

A comparison of observations made on November 1st with the ephemeris positions computed from these elements shows a satisfactory agreement. W. J. HUSSEY and R. G. AITKEN.

November 3, 1897.

ASTRONOMICAL TELEGRAMS *(Translations).*

Lick Observatory, Oct. 17, 1897.

To Harvard College Observatory:
To Students' Observatory, Berkeley:
} (Sent 1:00 A. M.)

A comet was discovered by C. D. PERRINE, October 16.7398, G. M. T.; R. A. $3^h\ 36^m\ 7^s.6$; N. P. D. $23^\circ\ 13'\ 16''$. The comet is about $2'$ in diameter, is as bright as an eighth magnitude star, has a well-defined nucleus and a tail less than $30'$ long.

Lick Observatory, Oct. 18, 1897.

To Harvard College Observatory:
To Students' Observatory, Berkeley: } (Sent 1:40 P.M.)

Comet *b*, 1897 (PERRINE), was observed by C. D. PERRINE, October 17.7121, G. M. T.; R. A. $3^h\ 30^m\ 25^s.7$; N. P. D. 21° 42′ 47″.

Lick Observatory, Oct. 18, 1897.

To Harvard College Observatory:
To Students' Observatory, Berkeley: } (Sent 9:55 P.M.)

Comet *b*, 1897 (PERRINE), was observed by W. J. HUSSEY, October 18.6498, G. M. T.; R. A. $3^h\ 24^m\ 2^s.2$; N. P. D. 20° 16′ 06″.

Lick Observatory, Oct. 19, 1897.

To Harvard College Observatory: (Sent 5:10 P.M.)

Comet *b*, 1897, was observed with the Meridian Circle by R. H. TUCKER, October 18.9011, G. M. T.; R. A. $3^h\ 22^m\ 5^s.5$; N. P. D. 19° 52′ 49″.

Lick Observatory, Oct. 19, 1897.

To Harvard College Observatory: (Sent 9:15 A.M.)

Elements and ephemeris of Comet *b*, 1897, were computed by W. J. HUSSEY and R. G. AITKEN.

ELEMENTS.

T = G. M. T. 1897, Dec. 9.2300.
$\omega = 66° 28'$
$\Omega = 32\ \ 5$ } Mean equinox of 1897.0
$i = 69\ \ 38$
q = 1.3525.

[The ephemeris at four-day intervals, from October 20th to November 1, 1897, is here omitted.]